

Remarks

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed February 1, 2005. Claims 1 and 7 are amended. Claims 1-15 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In section 5 of the Action, claims 1, 3, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Holloway, WO 00/75550. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a coupler for a cable trough system. Claim 1 recites, among other limitations, a locking element defining a hole, and a fastener extending through the hole in the locking element to couple the locking element to the body of the coupler.

Holloway discloses a locking element 21 with a hole. Holloway, Fig. 7. Holloway does not, however, disclose a fastener extending through the hole to couple locking element 21 to a connector body 8. Instead, element 21 includes a channel 28 to receive a mounting rib 29 of connector body 8 to form a friction fit therebetween. Holloway, Figs. 8 and 9; p. 6, ll. 27-32. Holloway therefore fails to disclose or suggest a fastener extending through a hole in a locking element to couple the locking element to the body of a coupler, as recited by claim 1.

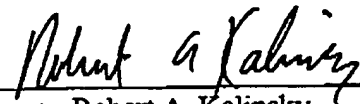
Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claims 3 and 8 that depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

In section 6 of the Action, claims 4-7 and 9 were noted as being allowable, and claims 10-15 were noted as being allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's assistance in identifying allowable subject matter. All claims should be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.
Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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